

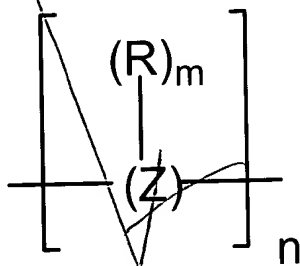
D1

n is an integer ranging from 2 to about 2,000;
 m is either 0 or 1, provided that m is 1 at least once in the compound and m is zero at least once in the compound when Z is an amino acid;
 R is R_A or R_B, where R_A is C₁₋₂₃ alkyl or alkenyl and R_B is a steroid selected from the group consisting of stigmasterol, ergosterol and cholic acid; and
 Z is a basic amino acid wherein Z groups are linked by peptide bonds.

D2

Please amend claim 15 as follows:]

15. A compound with the structure:



and salts thereof where:

n is an integer ranging from 2 to about 2,000;
 m is either 0 or 1;
 R is R_A or R_B, where R_A is an alkyl or alkenyl group having 12 to 22 carbon atoms and R_B is a steroid selected from the group consisting of stigmasterol, ergosterol and cholic acid; and
 Z is a monosaccharide having from 3 to 7 carbon atoms wherein Z groups are linked by glycosidic bonds.

D3

Please amend claims 20-22 as follows:]

20. A composition for transfecting a cell with a nucleic acid which comprises a nucleic acid and one or more compounds according to claim 12.

21. A lipid aggregate which comprises one or more compounds of claim 12.

Sub E1
D3 22. A method for transfecting a cell comprising the step of contacting the cell with a lipid aggregate comprising a nucleic acid and one or more compounds according to claim 12.

Please amend claim 25 as follows:

D4 25. A composition for transfecting a cell with a nucleic acid which comprises a cationic lipid of claim 12 capable of complexing said nucleic acid to be transfected into said cell, and a transfection-enhancing agent selected from the group consisting of an enveloped virus, a membrane virus, a viral component, and a non-viral fusogenic compound.

Please cancel claims 31-33 as redundant

Please amend claim 34 as follows:

D5 34. A transfection kit which comprises one or more compounds of claim 12.

Please amend claim 73 as follows:

D6 73. The lipophilic polyamino acid of claim 67 wherein the A₁ and A₂ groups are alkyl groups having from about 12 to about 22 carbon atoms.

Please add new claims 94-103

D7 --94. A composition for transfecting a cell with a nucleic acid which comprises a nucleic acid and one or more compounds according to claim 15.

95. A lipid aggregate which comprises one or more compounds of claim 15.

96. A method for transfecting a cell comprising the step of contacting the cell with a lipid aggregate comprising a nucleic acid and one or more compounds according to claim 15.

97. A transfection kit which comprises one or more compounds of claim 15.

98. A composition for transfecting a cell with a nucleic acid which comprises a cationic lipid of claim 98 capable of complexing said nucleic acid to be transfected into said cell, and a transfection-enhancing agent selected from the group consisting of an enveloped virus, a membrane virus, a viral component, and a non-viral fusagenic compound.

99. A composition according to claim 98 wherein said transfection-enhancing agent is an enveloped virus, and wherein said enveloped virus is an alphavirus.

100. A composition according to claim 98 wherein said alphavirus is Semliki Forest virus.

101. A composition according to claim 98 wherein said transfection-enhancing agent is a viral component and wherein said viral component is selected from the group consisting of viral proteins, envelope fusion peptides, viral spike glycoproteins, viral peptides of viral spike glycoproteins, and viral envelope fragments containing embedded viral protein.

102. A composition according to claim 98 wherein said transfection-enhancing agent is a non-viral fusagenic peptide.

103. A method for transfecting a cell comprising the steps of contact the cell with a transfecting composition of claim 98.--

REMARKS

Claims 12-22, 31-35 and 65-93 were under consideration in this case. Claims 65 and 66 have been canceled. New claims 94-103 have been added. Claims 12 and 15 have been rewritten in independent form including all limitations from the base claim upon which they originally depended.

Amendment of the Claims

Claims 12 and 15 have been amended to make them independent of now cancelled claims 65 and 66.